

EconEdLink: Definitions

Regulation - government efforts to control the behavior of individuals and organizations in the marketplace.

Net weight - the weight of the product and any liquid in which the product is packed. What the net weight may not contain is the weight of the container or its wrapping and the name and address of the manufacturer or distributor.

Voluntary recall - suggest the firm remove or correct a market product that violates the law.

Seizure – forcibly taking goods deemed to be in violation

Injunction – legal court order restraining or prohibiting a party from a specific course of action such as manufacture or distribution

Prosecution – charging company and its officials with violations of applicable criminal statutes.

Food additives - substances added to food in processing to delay spoilage, improve nutritional value, enhance taste, reduce cost, or enhance other characteristics.

Inspects - Food products are inspected for contamination or adulteration that would render products unsafe for the general public. Food is adulterated if it is produced in an unsanitary plant, contains ingredients or additives harmful to human consumption, or contains decomposed, putrid, or filthy portions. Some foods contain contaminants that cannot be avoided. Freshwater fish, for example, often contain high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and peanut butter contains Aflatoxin; both are hazardous to human health. Such contaminants are regulated by threshold levels which are generally measured in terms of acceptable number of parts per million (ppm). Unintended ingredients, such as pesticide residues, rodent hairs, and package residues, are also regulated.

Nutrition - the food you eat and how your body uses it

Label - a statement attached to a product that gives information about the product.

Ingredients - these are the things that go into the product.

Organic - Products labeled 100% organic must contain only organic ingredients. Those labeled merely organic must be at least 95% organic by weight, and “made with organic ingredients” must be at least 70 percent organic.